

Amendments to the Abstract:

A B S T R A C T

The invention relates to a A spacer for putting into place on a tubular element.—According to the invention, the spacer comprises includes firstly a sleeve of high-compressibility cellular material, said the sleeve presenting a wide slot extending over its entire length and defining a central passage that is essentially cylindrical- and being of diameter greater than the nominal diameter of the tubular element, and secondly a sheath of heat-shrink plastics material surrounding the split sleeve at least as far as the end edges thereof. The sheath is partially shrunk on the split sleeve firstly so as to hold said the split sleeve in the open state for putting the spacer into place on the tubular element, and secondly so as to be able subsequently to be heat-shrunk to clamp said the split sleeve and fix said the spacer in position.